

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC

Dear Madam Secretary:

We write to thank you for the vital role the United States played in winning approval of the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention and we ask that you maintain your personal involvement until this important humanitarian issue is finally resolved. In June, the states parties, the national humanitarian aid societies, the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will meet in Geneva to adopt rules implementing the Third Additional Protocol and consider the full membership of Israel's Magen David Adom humanitarian aid society. It is essential that, by our actions in the interceding months, the United States again be in a position to lead the international community forward.

In particular, we believe that the Third Additional Protocol and its enabling legislation should be presented by the President to the Congress, prior to the commencement of the June conference. Clearly, important inter-agency discussions and preparations for submission of the treaty and the enabling legislation will take time. No one wishes for this process to be short-circuited, or to be done haphazardly. Nevertheless, it is our firm belief that advanced progress by the United States towards implementation of the Third Additional Protocol, and, preferably, its submission for ratification, will be necessary to maintain the delicate international consensus that was achieved with such pains in December 2005.

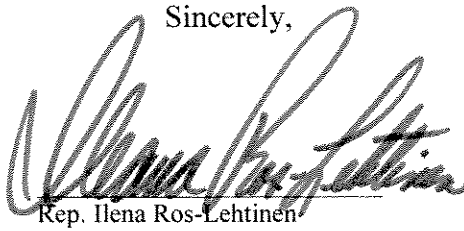
We are all deeply appreciative of the Department's diplomatic achievements in Geneva. Sustaining international support for the adoption of the third neutral symbol against efforts to divert the conference into unrelated political matters required all the skill and determination our delegation could muster. In the end, their efforts produced not only an overwhelming positive vote, but an extremely important memorandum of understanding between the Magen David Adom and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. For these achievements to bear fruit, continued focus on the process of implementation must be maintained. A laggard follow through in the months leading up to the June conference will be interpreted in the worst possible light by both our more hesitant friends in this effort, as well as our opponents.

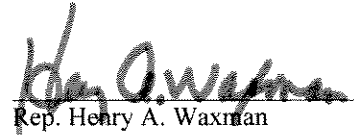
Consequently, we ask that you establish a clear deadline for the preparation of the necessary enabling legislation and that you encourage the President to submit the Third Additional Protocol to the Senate for its advice and consent before the conference in June.

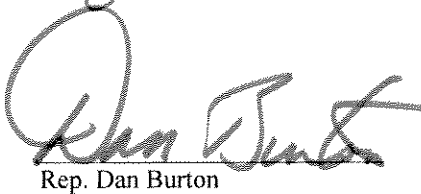
With your help, we look forward to celebrating a great success for American diplomacy, a victory for the principles of neutrality and universality in humanitarian affairs, and the long overdue remedy of a needless wrong. We stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

Sincerely,


Rep. Gary L. Ackerman


Rep. Ilona Ros-Lehtinen


Rep. Henry A. Waxman

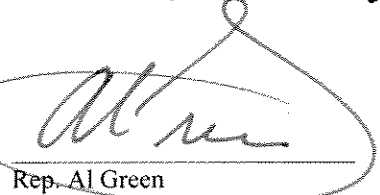

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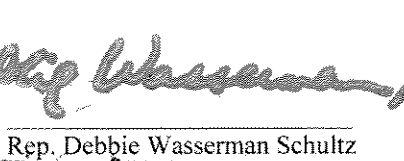

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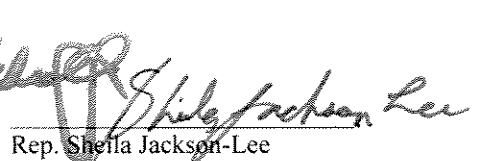

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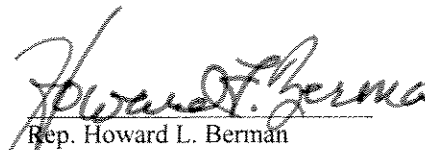

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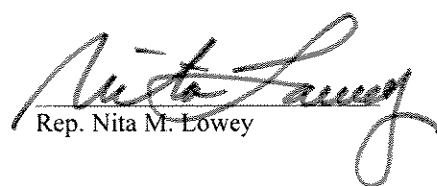

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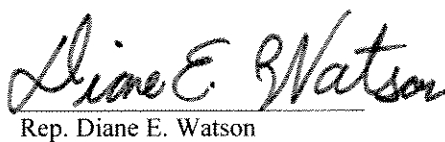

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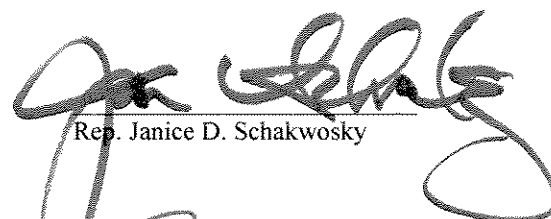

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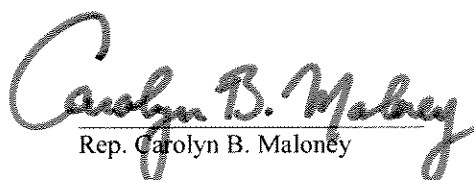

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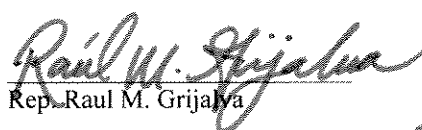

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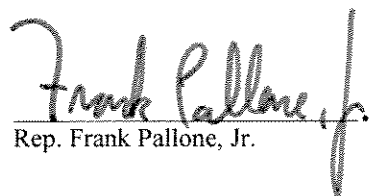

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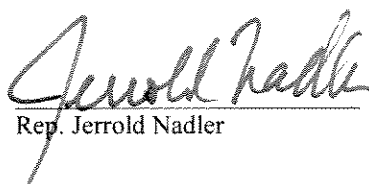

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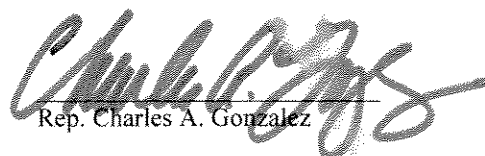

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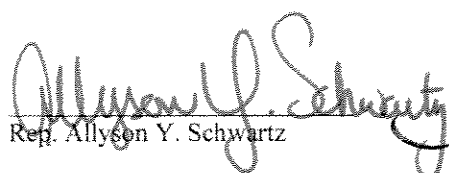

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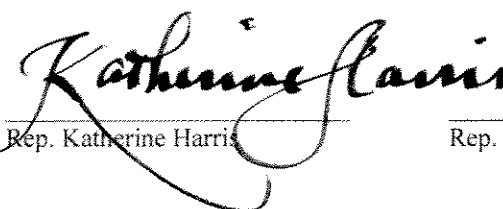

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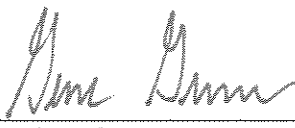

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